

## **Minutes of the Executive Committee**

**December 8, 2008**

Chair Dwyer called the Executive Committee meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and led the committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Executive Committee Members Present:**

Jim Dwyer

Dave Swan

Fritz Ruf

Pat Haukohl

Tom Schellinger

Bonnie Morris

Duane Paulson

### **Also Present:**

Chief of Staff Mark Mader

Legislative Policy Advisor Ann Olson

Legislative Policy Advisor Dave Krahn

### **Correspondence**

Dwyer distributed and reviewed the list of correspondence. Supervisors may request copies of listed items from Jicha.

### **Approve Minutes of October 20 and November 10, 2008**

MOTION: Ruf moved, Swan second, to approve the minutes of October 20, 2008 as amended. Motion Carried 7-0.

MOTION: Haukohl moved, Ruf second, to approve the minutes of November 10, 2008. Motion carried 7-0.

### **Discuss and Consider the Following Appointments:**

#### **163-A-057: Appointment of Clarence Stoel to the Veterans Service Commission**

MOTION: Ruf moved, Morris second, to approve Appointment 163-A-057. Motion carried 7-0.

#### **163-A-058: Appointment of Nancy Bonniwell to the County Zoning Board of Adjustment**

MOTION: Morris moved, Haukohl second, to approve Appointment 163-A-058. Motion carried 7-0.

### **Discussion of Legislative Priorities for the 2009 Legislative Session**

Krahn said there is a meeting next week with the governor and WCA and WCEA. The organizations' leaders will not be asking for money but instead will look at the meeting as an opportunity to discuss the organizations' top four issues and possible sources of revenue. The governor has talked about deep budget cuts and possible revenues. The organizations support the investigation of other revenues.

Dwyer said he wants the two organizations to go to the governor with one voice. It is critical they have a united front.

Krahn reviewed a handout titled *Waukesha County Priority Issues for the 2009 Legislature*.

Child Support – There were federal funding cuts in child support enforcement. The state stepped in during the last session to backfill the funding loss. The issue remains “as is” for now. The issue is for the state to continue providing the shortfall plus more due to increased costs.

Collection of Delinquencies – The issue would be to allow counties to keep a greater percentage of court debts they collect. The state currently gets 90% of the collection.

Community Aids - Redefine – Many people feel Community Aids are a black hole. With the change to an ADRC, following the funding has been simplified. Community Aids should be redefined to allocate

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existing funds among several categories while maintaining flexibility for counties to transfer money among categories if necessary. Dwyer said not all counties are working an ADRC. Statewide this is an issue but not for Waukesha County.

Community Justice Act – Krahn said this effort is widespread and emerged from groups like SOPHIA and the CJCC. The Supreme Court is involved in seeking effective strategies. The act would fund programs to reduce recidivism.

Courts Funding – The County continues to fund courts to a greater degree than we should. Courts are a necessity under the constitution. This expense should not be covered by property taxes.

Income Maintenance – The County would like to increase base funding for the Income Maintenance Administration Allocation by \$1.4 million annually.

Indigent Defense – The indigency standards have not changed since 1980 and need to be updated. If a judge determines someone to be indigent, the county has to pay for their defense from property taxes.

Levy Limits – Krahn said this is one of the top four priority issues for Waukesha County. The WCA and WCEA want to eliminate levy limits. Local units of government have to pass balanced budgets and cannot carryover structural deficit.

911 – Krahn said this is one of the top four priority issues. Tuma is doing a good job getting the numbers he needs to have a meeting by the end of the year. He has contacted all providers and is optimistic they will be on Waukesha County's side of the argument. Some providers are beginning to understand that one PSAP per county is a good idea. One issue that muddled the process is City of Milwaukee pushing to have part of the fees go to fund public safety in general. Milwaukee's idea will not be part of the package that is taken to the governor. Cell phone use throughout the state will not pay for police across the state. New 911 legislation will be for a surcharge on all phones and computer hook ups, not just cellular. The surcharge is estimated to be 75 cents or less.

Probation and Parole – Forty dollars per day does not cover the cost of state prisoners. The amount is prorated. The Legislative Audit Bureau will be asked to determine whether the program is operating efficiently and effectively.

Regional Transit Authority – Krahn said the governor is going to include RTA language in his budget. Ruf said RTAs should be reestablished. He does not think any legislation will be passed making them mandatory.

Tax Reform – Krahn said this is one of the top four priority issues. Sales tax exemptions should be reviewed.

Transportation – Krahn said the practice of transferring funds from the transportation fund to GPR should be discouraged.

Wisconsin Medicaid Cost Reporting – In 2005, the state asked the counties to go along with allowing the counties to collect funds from the federal government. It would help hold the state harmless. The sunset on the process never went away so the counties are still under WIMCR. We need to restore CSDRB-like claim processing.

Youth Aids – Youth Aids should be increased and the fund model overhauled.

MOTION Ruf moved, Swan second, to approve Waukesha County's top four priority issues for the 2009 legislature: tax reform, 911 legislation, levy limits and court funding. Motion carried 7-0.

### **Update on Wisconsin Way Initiative**

Dwyer said Wisconsin Way held a series of meetings throughout the state to discuss the blueprint of their initiative for the future. The plan is based on 1000s of pages of testimony and research. There is one more series of meetings before the organization releases their plan and presents it to the legislature in early spring. The next move will be to begin working on the upcoming biennium budget. Ruf said Wisconsin Way went out and surveyed the people. The consensus is that change is essential and property taxes cannot be the corner stone of all funding. Wisconsin Way is looking for ways to increase revenues. The legislature is desperate to find alternatives and the only way to do that is to shift the tax base. Wisconsin Way has a chance of getting this to work.

### **Update on Local Government Institute**

Dwyer said the Local Government Institute (LGI) was started a year ago by the League of Municipalities, Wisconsin Counties Association, Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance and the Wisconsin County Executive and Administrators Association. The organizations joined forces to talk about and research good public policy that all organizations could agree on and to provide a united front to legislators. Taxes are the number one issue. The group contracted with Vierbecker and Associates and Gary Becker is the facilitator. Members are from all organizations plus four public members who are Bill Mielke, former Governor Tony Earl, Jean Jacobson and Daryl Mayfield. The group has a monthly teleconference and meets at the WCA offices every other month.

Each organization provided \$20K to start the organization. Future funding will come from grants. LGI recently submitted a grant application to the Lincoln Foundation but was denied. The Foundation provided a list of things that could be improved.

### **Discussion of Appointment Process to Select Replacement for District 13**

Dwyer received Supervisor Behrend's resignation letter. Below is the timetable for filling the district vacancy.

Date	Event
December 8, 2008	Press release sent to media.
December 19, 2008	Application due to the County Board Office.
December 4, 2009	Behrend's last day in office.
January 5, 2009	Executive Committee interviews candidates.
January 27, 2009	New supervisor sworn into office.

### **Committee Reports by Committee Chairs for the Following Meetings:**

November 13 and December 4, 2008- Health and Human Services – Paulson said at the December 4 meeting, the Committee approved Ordinance 163-O-069 to modify the ADRC Nutrition Fund 2008 Budget to increase revenues and appropriate additional expenditures for the Elderly Home Delivered Meal Program. The committee also heard an overview of specialized transportation and took a tour of the Lutheran Social Services offices.

November 14, 2008 – Judiciary – Morris said Bob Snow and Captain McDonald gave a quarterly Courthouse Security Update and CJCC Coordinator Rebecca Luczaj updated the committee on CJCC happenings. The committee toured the Sheriff's Department Computer Forensics lab.

November 19, 2008 – Finance – Haukohl said the committee heard reports on third quarter investments and general funds. They approved seven fund transfers and a contract procurement process for senior dining. Lastly, the committee went into closed session to discuss two Worker's Compensation cases.

December 4, 2008 – Public Works – Swan said the committee approved two ordinances and two resolutions. They also heard an update on the November 20, 2008 Waukesha County Transit public hearing.

**Future Agenda Items**

CJCC Update

MOTION: Paulson moved, Ruf second, to adjourn the meeting at 11 a.m. Motion carried 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie J. Morris  
Secretary